

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 L-03 H-01 DHA-02 PA-01
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3313
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3304
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 2682

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, YU
SUBJECT: MEETING OF EC-YUGOSLAV JOINT COMMISSION MARCH 29

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 2281; (B) EC BRUSSELS 12150,
1976

1. MISSION OFFICER ON MARCH 17 DISCUSSED WITH EC COMMISSION
OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF SOUTHERN EUROPE RELATIONS
PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH 29 EC-YUGOSLAV JOINT COMMITTEE
MEETING TO DISCUSS ENHANCEMENT OF EC-YUGOSLAV TIES
PURSUANT TO JOINT DECLARATION IN BELGRADE LAST
DECEMBER 2. HE INFORMED US THAT PREPARATORY TALKS
WILL BE HELD WITH A YUGOSLAV DELEGATION COMING TO
BRUSSELS WEEK OF MARCH 21. HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER,
THAT DESPITE THE POLITICAL WILL ON BOTH SIDES TO EXPAND
RELATIONS, THE COMMISSION REMAINS IN A QUANDARY AS
TO HOW THIS CAN BE DONE, GIVEN THE VERY DIFFERENT NATURES
OF THE EC AND YUGOSLAV TRADING/ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AND THE
LIMITED COMMUNITY COMPETENCE IN AREAS OF INTEREST TO
THE YUGOSLAVS. COMMISSION OFFICIAL THOUGHT MARCH 29
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MEETING WOULD BE DEVOTED LARGELY TO FURTHER YUGOSLAV
EXPOSITION OF WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND REGARDING ENHANCED
RELATIONSHIP, WHICH UP UNTIL NOW HAS EITHER
LACKED SPECIFICITY OR BEEN CONCEPTUALLY TOO GRANDIOSE,
AND TO EC'S EXPLAINING AGAIN THE LIMITS OF ITS COMPETENCE.

2. COMMISSION OFFICIAL THOUGHT YUGOSLAVS, BECAUSE

OF THEIR STATE TRADING ORIENTATION, HAVE GENUINE
DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING EC PROCEDURES AND COMPETENCES AND
CONSEQUENT CONSTRAINTS ON ITS ABILITY TO
DELIVER, FOR EXAMPLE, WEST EUROPEAN INVESTMENT IN
YUGOSLAVIA (SEE REF B), ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT RULE OUT
POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH "FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND" IS AT
LEAST IN PART A NEGOTIATING TACTIC. OFFICIAL SAID
IT IS STILL AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER THE TWO PARTIES
WILL BEGIN, IN THE WEEKS AHEAD, TO DRAFT A PROTOCOL
TO THE PRESENT EC-YUGOSLAV NON-PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT
(DUE TO EXPIRE NEXT YEAR) WHICH MIGHT IN SOME MANNER
PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR YUGOSLAVIA, OR WHETHER
THEY WILL SIMPLY BEGIN DRAFTING A NEW ECONOMIC/TRADE
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT TO TAKE EFFECT NEXT YEAR.
HE SAID MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE PRECISION WITH WHICH
YUGOSLAVS PUT FORWARD THEIR DESIDERATA.HINTON

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